

\*Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all the people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. C: Amen.

\*Blessing

Pastor: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever. C: Amen

\*Closing Hymn:

Prepare the Royal Highway

LBW 26

\*Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Keep awake. C: Thanks be to God.

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Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ida Kerch    Dave Lamar    Elzy Pauley    Carolyn Pinos    Ava Stancovich    Gini Gray  
Carson Berkheimer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning, Jack Seymore, an authorized lay worship leader in the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, will distribute the gifts of bread and wine set apart at the gathering of our brothers and sisters from Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg, PA on December 9, 2023. Because an ordained pastor is not available to preside at our worship today, and with the blessing of Bishop Paula Schmitt, this for of distribution under special circumstances is being used only during this time of our congregational transition.

December 17—Items for the newsletter are due to Sharon Cordwell or Becky Canavan. Items may be placed in their mailboxes in the back of the church.

December 17—We will be decorating the church for Christmas today. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated, We will NOT be lighting the tree or candles until the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7:00 pm. There will refreshments served afterwards in the Social Hall.

December 17—Installation of new council members.

December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Pastor Rebecca West from Moxham Lutheran Church will be leading us in worship for Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm.

January 8—Council meeting at 6:30 pm.

If anyone is in need of Pastoral care, please call the Allegheny Synod office to make arrangements at (814) 942-1042.

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Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

First Lutheran Church (814) 736-3662  
Worship Sundays at 9:00 am



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*Communion Hospitality*

*Lutheran Christians believe Christ is truly present in his supper. By faith we receive his Body and Blood “in, with, and under” the forms: of bread and wine for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. All baptized Christians who desire to receive Jesus in his sacrament, are welcome to commune.*

*Tall and small candles are given to the Glory of God.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Setting II

#### Parish Announcements

#### Prelude

#### \*= Stand

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

#### \*Announcements

#### \*Confession and Forgiveness

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **C: Amen.**

**Pastor:** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.*

**Pastor:** Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.** **C: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **C: Amen**

#### \*Opening Hymn

**Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

WOV 633

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie** p. 78

**\*Prayer of the Day:** **Pastor:** The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**\*Blessing of the Advent Wreath** Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel LBW 34 v. 2

**First Reading:** **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126**

**Second Reading:** **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Verse**

**\*Holy Gospel:** **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

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**\*Sermon**

#### \*Hymn of the Day

#### \*Nicene Creed

#### Installation of Council Members

#### \*Prayers of the Church

**Pastor:** Merciful God,

#### O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LBW 23

p. 84

**C: receive our prayer.**

**\*Passing of Peace** **Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**  
*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated.*

#### Offering

*The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

#### \*Offertory

#### \*Offertory Prayer

**Pastor:** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

**"Let the Vineyards"**

p. 86

#### Liturgy of Holy Communion

#### \*Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus

p. 88

**"When our brothers and sisters at Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg gathered in worship on Saturday, December 9th, they heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown to us in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and they shared in the holy meal of the Lord's Supper. Now, I bring to you this same word of life, and this same bread and cup of blessing, so that we may share in these gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God. Gathered at the Lord's Table, our brothers and sisters in Christ celebrated with thanksgiving that "in the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me," This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this meal is shared with the assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This bread and cup, shared in the gathering of our faith, are now given for you.**

#### \*The Lord's Prayer

**\*Invitation to Communion:** **Pastor:** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

#### \*Agnus Dei

**"Lamb of God"**  
*As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:  
'The body of Christ, given for you.' & 'The blood of Christ, shed for you.'  
After each, the communicant may say: 'Amen.'*

#### Distribution

#### Communion Hymn:

**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

LBW 29

#### \*Post Communion Blessing

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